

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-11. (canceled)

12. (currently amended) A lancet, comprising: having  
~~a support body enclosing~~

a needle ~~such that~~ having a pointed tip; [[of]]

a support body enclosing the needle such that the  
pointed tip projects beyond the end of the support body; and

a removable guard located over the pointed tip of the  
needle ~~and interconnected with a support body holding the needle~~  
~~via a breakable neck portion moulded with the guard and the~~  
~~support body, and the guard being formed of a moulded plastics~~  
~~material with an outer edge thickened region leading from the end~~  
~~of the guard remote from the needle tip to a thinner section of~~  
~~the plastics material approaching the needle tip, the plastics~~  
~~material forming a further thickened region about the needle tip,~~  
~~but separated from the outer edge region by said thinner section,~~  
said guard having been integrally moulded from plastics material  
with said support body and connected thereto by a breakable neck  
portion;

said removable guard portion having an outer peripheral thickened region describing a generally U- or C-shape, a central region of thinner section and a further thickened region being spaced from the adjacent ends of the peripheral thickened region such that there is a gap therebetween bridged only by said thinner section.

13. (currently amended) [[A]] The lancet according to claim 12, wherein the guard is formed with a centrally positioned hole close to the end of the guard remote from the needle point.

14. (currently amended) [[A]] The lancet according to claim 12, wherein the guard is of generally tab-like form, with the thickened region forming arc-like portions on ~~the~~ two side edges of the guard which lead to the thinner section of plastics material adjacent to the needle tip.

15. (currently amended) A method of forming a lancet ~~in which,~~ comprising:

holding a needle ~~is held~~ in a mould formed to create a support body for holding the base portion of the needle and a removable guard about the pointed needle tip and to form a breakable neck portion between the support body and the guard, the mould having an entry point for plastics material, at the end of the guard remote from the needle point, leading to an outer

edge thickened hollow region which in turn leads to a thinner hollow section approaching the needle tip and a further enlarged hollow region about the needle tip~~[[,]]~~; and

injecting plastics material ~~is injected~~ into the mould via the entry point to create the guard about the needle tip.

16. (currently amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The method according to claim 15, wherein the plastics material flows around both sides of a pin located close to said entry point towards said edge thickened hollow region.

17. (currently amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The lancet according to claim 13, wherein the guard is of generally tab-like form, with the thickened region forming arc-like portions on ~~[[the]]~~ two side edges of the guard which lead to the thinner section of plastics material adjacent to the needle tip.